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Making sense of the world

THE WEEK

Junior

THE BEST MAGAZINE FOR CURIOUS KIDS



MASSIVE RECOVERY

Nation rushes to help the Southeast after two devastating hurricanes p2





This week's big news



Destruction in Florida after Hurricane Milton

DID YOU KNOW?
Depending on where they occur, hurricanes are also known as cyclones or typhoons.

Protecting zoo animals



ZooTampa in Tampa Bay, Florida, was in the evacuation zone for Hurricane Milton, but the animals there could not be moved. Instead, 12 zookeepers volunteered to stay and ride out the storm with them. More than 1,000 animals, including giraffes, elephants, and red wolves, were kept safe in hurricane-proof buildings.

Recovery begins after second hurricane

On October 9, Hurricane Milton slammed into western Florida. The state was still recovering from Hurricane Helene, which devastated parts of Florida, Georgia, and North Carolina when it struck on September 26.

What happened?

Milton made landfall near Tampa Bay, Florida, as a Category 3 hurricane, bringing winds of 105 miles per hour, intense rainfall, and a storm surge (rise in seawater) that included 28-foot waves along Florida's coastline. The city of St. Petersburg received nearly 19 inches of rain, which weather experts said is an extremely rare occurrence. The storm also triggered 126 tornado warnings, the most ever issued in one day in Florida. Milton caused at least 38 tornadoes across central and southern Florida, destroying homes and toppling trees and power lines. About 6 million people were ordered by the state to evacuate in the days before the storm, which was one of the largest mass evacuations in the state's history.

What were the effects?

Milton damaged at least 150,000 homes and buildings, including Tropicana Field,

the Tampa Bay Rays' baseball stadium in St. Petersburg, which had its roof ripped off. Entire neighborhoods were covered in water, and more than 3.4 million homes and businesses lost power. Florida officials said 17 people died, including five who were killed by tornadoes. Crews rescued 1,600 people and 140 animals from flood waters. Roads were blocked by flooding, and nearly 30% of Florida's gas stations ran out of fuel because gas trucks could not reach them. As *The Week Junior* went to press on October 15, more than 375,000 residents were still without electricity. Officials estimated the cost of Milton's damage at \$30 billion to \$60 billion.



A volunteer in North Carolina

Why was this storm so dangerous?

After forming on October 4 in the Gulf of Mexico, Milton moved at an unusually slow pace over waters that were at record-high temperatures. Hurricanes gain strength from warmer water. Within 15 hours, Milton's winds had risen from 90 miles per hour to 180 miles per hour, growing into a massive Category 5 hurricane (the most severe) and one of only 10 Atlantic hurricanes ever to reach that wind speed. By the time Milton made landfall, it had weakened to a

Category 3 but was still powerful enough to cause an enormous amount of damage.

How are people being helped?

Ron DeSantis, Florida's governor, directed 2,800 workers to help remove debris from the storms, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) sent more than 8,500 government workers to the area. Thousands of utility crews from across the US and Canada have been scrambling to restore power to affected areas. Recovery from Helene is ongoing as well. As *The Week Junior* went to press, crews were continuing to restore water systems and reopen roads damaged by Helene. FEMA had approved \$860 million in assistance for people who were affected by that hurricane and for rebuilding efforts in several states that were hit.

What will happen next?

On October 13, President Joe Biden visited Florida and announced that the US government had committed \$612 million to rebuild and improve the power grid in areas affected by both Helene and Milton. Biden also declared a major disaster for the Florida towns hit by Milton, which he had previously done for the regions hit by Helene. That declaration opened up the flow of federal aid to those communities and their residents.

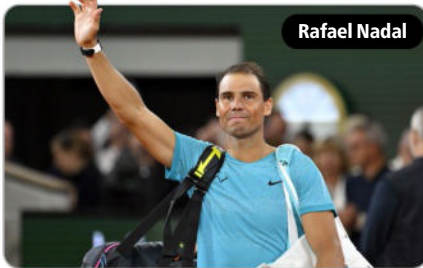


Tennis legend is set to retire

On October 10, tennis star Rafael Nadal, age 38, announced his retirement from the sport at the end of the year. Nadal, who is from Spain, is considered one of the greatest players of all time. He has won 22 Grand Slam titles (victories in the four most important international tennis tournaments held each year) and spent 209 weeks ranked as the world's top tennis player.

Nadal began playing tennis at age 4 and turned professional in 2001 at age 15. By 2005, he was the world's number two tennis player. He has won four Davis Cup (largest international tennis competition) titles and two Olympic gold medals, as well as the most major titles on clay courts, earning him the nickname "King of Clay."

In recent years, Nadal has had several injuries. He will play his last professional match at the Davis Cup in Spain in November. "Everything I have experienced has been a dream come true," Nadal said in announcing his retirement. Addressing his fans, he added, "I can only end by saying, a thousand thanks to you all."



Rafael Nadal



Terumi Tanaka of the organization Nihon Hidankyo, which won the Nobel Peace Prize

NOBEL NUMBERS

Since 1901, when the Nobels were first awarded, 627 prizes have been given to 1,012 people and organizations.

Nobel Prize winners are named

The 2024 Nobel Prizes were announced from October 7 to October 14. Among the world's most prestigious honors, the prizes were created by Alfred Nobel (1833–1896), a Swedish inventor, scientist, and businessman. They recognize groundbreaking achievements in six categories: peace, medicine or physiology, physics, chemistry, literature, and economics.

This year, the 2024 Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to the Japanese organization Nihon Hidankyo, which is made up of survivors of the atomic bombings of the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. The world's first nuclear bombs were dropped by the US at the end of World War II (1939–1945), causing about 214,000 deaths and devastating both cities. Nihon Hidankyo represents thousands of

survivors, known as *hibakusha*, who are using their personal stories to "achieve a world free of nuclear weapons," according to the Nobel Prize committee.

Among the science awards, Geoffrey Hinton of Canada and John Hopfield of the US won the physics prize for their work laying the foundation for artificial intelligence (AI, when computers imitate human learning). The Nobel Prize in Literature went to author Han Kang, who was the first South Korean and first Asian woman to win the award. (You can find out about all the prizes at nobelprize.org.)

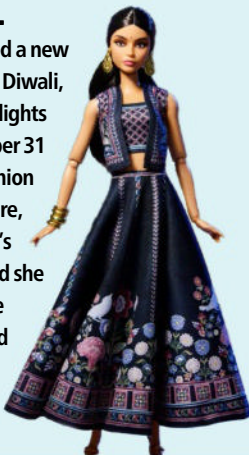
Each prize includes an award of about \$1 million, which is divided if there are multiple winners. Recipients, known as Nobel laureates, will receive a diploma and medal at ceremonies in Sweden and Norway in December.



IT'S AN AMAZING WEEK FOR...

A DIWALI DOLL

Mattel has introduced a new Barbie doll honoring Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights (celebrated on October 31 this year). Indian fashion designer Anita Dongre, who created the doll's traditional outfit, said she hopes kids across the world will be inspired "to connect with their culture and heritage."



TREATING THE NEIGHBORS

A Tennessee man is bringing joy to local dogs. In his front yard, Doug Owen installed a gumball machine full of treats for pups walking by. Owners turn the dial to get them. And they're free "because we know dogs don't carry cash," he said.



Doug Owen

FINDING A MASTERPIECE

In 1962, Luigi Lo Rosso found a painting in an abandoned Italian villa, put it in a cheap frame, and gave it to his wife, who didn't like it. Luckily, she kept it anyway, because that work turned out to be an original by Pablo Picasso that could sell for up to \$6.6 million. Lo Rosso's children plan to auction the painting in honor of their father.



The Picasso



National news



STUDENTS HAVE A SAY

In the 2020 Presidential election, 66% of college students cast ballots, an increase of 14% over the 2016 election.

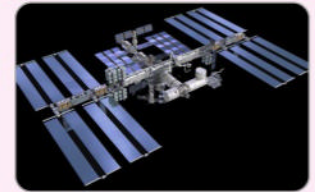


Vice President Kamala Harris campaigning in North Carolina



Former President Donald Trump speaking at a rally in Arizona

Voting from space



US astronauts aboard the ISS (lab that orbits 254 miles above the Earth's surface) are able to vote in the election by absentee ballot. NASA, the US space agency, has a communications service that transmits the astronauts' ballots to Mission Control Center in Texas, where they get sent to the voting district where the astronauts live.

Candidates make final appeal to voters

With polls showing a very tight race for US President, the candidates—Vice President Kamala Harris, the Democrat, and former President Donald Trump, the Republican—are trying to reach as many voters as possible in the remaining time before Election Day on November 5.

What is happening?

Harris and Trump are traveling across the US to convince key groups of people, such as undecided voters, to cast ballots for them. They are focusing their attention on the "swing states" that are most likely to decide the election: Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. They are also spending tens of millions of dollars on TV commercials, social media campaigns, and other kinds of ads to reach voters.

What is Harris doing?

Harris has raised more than \$1 billion since entering the race for President in late July. Her campaign promises include making housing more affordable, increasing opportunities for all Americans, and protecting women's rights. She recently appeared on several TV shows and was set to be interviewed by Fox News on October 15. Former Presidents Barack Obama and Bill Clinton have spoken at her events. Harris's candidate for Vice President, Minnesota Governor Tim Walz, has also been campaigning to meet voters.

What is Trump doing?

In addition to visiting swing states, Trump has campaigned in states likely to vote for Harris, including California and Colorado.

In his remarks, he has vowed to stop illegal immigration and to improve the economy. On October 14, Trump was set to participate in a town hall with an all-female audience to discuss women's issues. Elon Musk, the founder of Tesla and SpaceX, appeared onstage at a recent Trump rally to support him. Trump's running mate—JD Vance, a US Senator from Ohio—has also been making campaign stops.

What will happen next?

Early voting has begun in 42 states, and nearly 55 million Americans have requested absentee ballots to vote by mail or to drop off at voting centers. Young people ages 18 to 24 are expected to have a strong turnout at the polls. Harris and Trump will continue to try to persuade voters to support them.



WORD OF THE WEEK

BAT

The nocturnal flying mammal we call a "bat" was originally known as a "back." This early name had been borrowed into English from a Scandinavian language. It was changed to "bat" in the 16th century. The other "bat," used for hitting a ball, is a different word we adopted from French.



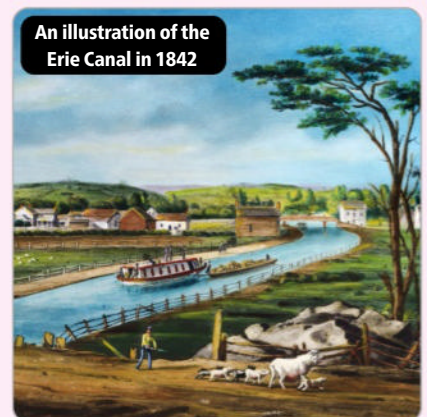
THE WEEK IN HISTORY

October 26, 1825

Erie Canal opens in New York

On October 26, 1825, the Erie Canal, the longest artificial waterway in North America, opened in New York. It took eight years to build the 363-mile-long canal, which connected the cities of Albany and Buffalo and provided a direct water route from the East Coast to the Midwest. This made it easier to deliver goods that came into New York City's busy seaport to other parts of the country.

An illustration of the Erie Canal in 1842





DID YOU KNOW?
More than 2,200 bears live in Katmai National Park in Alaska.



Plan for safer drinking water

President Joe Biden announced a new rule that would replace all lead pipes in the US drinking water system over the next 10 years. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA, US agency that safeguards the environment) says that up to 9 million homes could contain lead pipes that deliver drinking water. Lead is harmful to children because it can affect their development. The ruling, which could face legal challenges, would be carried out by the EPA.



Ethel Kennedy

Longtime activist remembered

Human rights advocate Ethel Kennedy died on October 10 at age 96. She was the wife of Senator Robert F. Kennedy, who was killed during his campaign for President in 1968. After his death, she founded the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights to focus on reducing poverty, protecting the environment, and other causes. She was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2014.



San Diego, California

Greenest cities in the US ranked

San Diego, California, is the greenest US city, according to WalletHub. The personal finance company measured 100 US cities in 28 categories, including walkability and plastic bag use. San Diego was found to have the most solar panels relative to its population size and to get more than 43% of its energy from renewable sources. Washington, DC, took second place, and Honolulu, Hawaii, was third.



128 "Grazer" took the top prize.

Fat Bear Week has repeat champ

The champion of Fat Bear Week, an annual contest in Katmai National Park in Alaska, was announced on October 9. For the second year in a row, the winner is 128 "Grazer," a 19-year-old female brown bear.

The park holds the competition to celebrate its bears as they gain weight before hibernation (deep sleep in winter). Because bears don't eat or drink while hibernating, they can lose up to a third of their body weight.

So they eat a tremendous amount of food to bulk up in the summer and fall. Some bears can gain as much as 500 pounds to reach a total weight of well over 1,000 pounds. For the park's bears, the most common food source is salmon, which they can find in abundance in the Brooks River.

During Fat Bear Week, which began as Fat Bear Tuesday in 2014, the park selects a group of 12 bears to put into tournament-style brackets. People vote online for their favorite

bears throughout the week. Before that contest begins, Fat Bear Junior, a competition among some of the park's young cubs, is held. This year, 909 "Junior" won for the second time.

The 2024 Fat Bear Week final competition came down to Grazer and 32 "Chunk," a 19-year-old male. The two bears share a history. Last year, Grazer defeated Chunk in the final round of Fat Bear Week. This year, tragedy

struck in July when Chunk—the most dominant bear on the Brooks River, according to the park—attacked two of Grazer's cubs, killing one of them. Grazer fought Chunk, and her other cub survived and competed in Fat Bear Junior.

Grazer won this year's Fat Bear Week competition by more than 40,000 votes. She is the first bear

to win the contest while caring for a cub, said Mike Fitz, the park's creator of Fat Bear Week. "Her ability to defend her cubs in the face of a great challenge" was very much admired, he said.



909 "Junior" won the cub contest.

THE WEEK'S SILLIEST HEADLINE

"Wandering koala leads police on chase through train station" UPI





Around the world



Interrupted Pendulum by Anna Zekavati

London, United Kingdom **Fair showcases female artists**

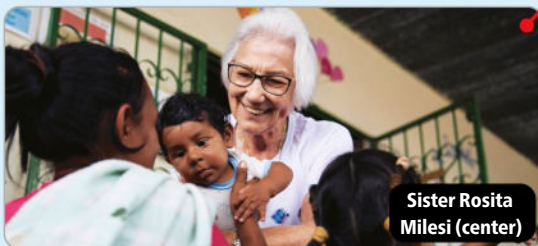
The work of about 150 female artists was exhibited at London's Mall Galleries during Frieze Week, a celebration of contemporary art. Organizers of the Women in Art Fair said they wanted to address gender inequality in the art world by giving female artists a platform to share their work. They received about 2,000 submissions. "It's been so heartwarming and really positive to see so many women come forward," said the director.



A square in Caracas

Caracas, Venezuela **Christmas comes early**

President Nicolás Maduro declared that Christmas festivities would start early in Venezuela this year, beginning in October for the December holiday. Workers have already set up Christmas decorations in the capital city, Caracas. Some critics think Maduro is using the celebrations to try to distract people from Venezuela's political issues after disagreements and protests broke out over whether he won the country's presidential election.



Sister Rosita Milesi (center)

Brazil **Refugee champion is recognized**

A nun and lawyer has won an award for supporting refugees (people forced to flee their home to escape danger). UNHCR, an agency of the United Nations (an organization of 193 nations), gave its Nansen Refugee Award to Sister Rosita Milesi, age 79. For nearly 40 years, Milesi has advocated for refugees' rights and helped thousands of people access education, jobs, and services.

Zurich, Switzerland **New hospital for children**

A new children's hospital was specially designed to help patients heal in a cozy, child-friendly space. Kinderspital, Switzerland's biggest health center for young people, took 14 years to build. It looks like a town of small wooden apartments and has cushioned areas, walls that can be scribbled on, and large windows overlooking courtyard gardens.



Kinderspital



Antarctica **Less ice, more plants**

Climate change is causing more plants to grow in Antarctica, according to a new study. Instead of ice and snow, about 4.6 square miles of the frozen continent is now covered in moss, grasses, and lichen (a plant-like living thing). Although this is less than 1% of the land, experts say the speed of the change is "astounding" and could have a big impact on the area's ecosystem (group of plants and animals that affect one another).



Moss growing in Antarctica

INSTAGRAM/ANNAZEKAVATI; REUTERS (2); HERZOG & DE MEURON; DAVID SUNDERHAUF; DAV CHARMAN; GETTY IMAGES (4)

Around the world



The robot

Dresden, Germany **Robot conductor debuts**

A three-armed robot conductor named MAIRA Pro S performed in public for the first time this month. At the concert, each of the robot's arms held a short baton that looked like a very small lightsaber. The orchestra was divided into three sections, and each one responded to a different baton as it guided them through the music.



A checkpoint in North Korea

North Korea **Railways and roads closed off**

Roads and train lines that connect North and South Korea are being blocked in order to "completely separate" the two countries, North Korean officials said. The countries have been divided for more than 70 years, and the roads between them are mostly unused. Tensions have risen recently, and North Korea destroyed sections of the connecting routes on October 15, saying it wanted to seal the border to protect itself.



Nima Rinji Sherpa

China **Record-breaking teen climber**

Nima Rinji Sherpa, age 18, has broken a world record as the youngest person to climb Earth's 14 highest mountains. These peaks are known as the "eight-thousanders" because they are all higher than 8,000 meters (26,247 feet) above sea level. Sherpa, from Nepal, completed the challenge in 740 days. "I am feeling very happy," he said after reaching the final summit, Mount Shishapangma in Tibet, this month.



Collecting clean water

Sudan **Risk of disease grows**

The United Nations said emergency action is needed to stop people from getting cholera, a deadly disease that can spread through water. Sudan's civil war (conflict between groups within a country) has damaged water treatment systems and forced more than 10 million people to leave their homes. Many are sheltering in flooded areas where the disease is spreading.

Igbo-Ora, Nigeria **Celebrating twins**

The 2024 World Twins Festival took place in Igbo-Ora on October 12. The annual event celebrates the unusually high number of twins that are born in the town — about 50 out of each 1,000 births, compared to the global average of 12 per 1,000 births. At the festival, twins wearing matching outfits paraded down a red carpet and performed in talent shows in front of spectators, including dozens of other twins of all ages.



Twins at the festival



The big debate

Is sweet candy better than sour candy?

Some people enjoy savoring a sweet classic, while others like a tart surprise.

What you need to know

- Americans spend about \$3 billion on Halloween candy each year.
- Ancient Greeks made sour candy from tamarind fruit, and people in China have been eating sour plum candy for centuries.
- A 2021 YouGov survey found that children are more likely than adults to choose sour candies for Halloween.
- According to one estimate, Reese's Peanut Butter Cups were the most popular candy in 2023.



Spooky season is upon us, which for many people means stockpiling sweet Halloween chocolate bars, gummies, and candy corn. Others, however, think the fall holiday is a perfect time to pucker up to a super-sour sensation. Supporters of sweet options say you can never go wrong with a gooey, melt-in-your-mouth candy or a burst of bright, fruit-filled flavor. But others would rather eat something tart and hair-raising to match the Halloween spirit. They say the thrill of popping a piece of sour candy in your mouth is unbeatable. What do you think? Is sweet candy better than sour candy?

Yes—it's a delight to eat

Let's face it: When people say candy, the first thing they think of is something sweet, not sour. Candy is a special treat that's meant to last a while and be savored, while sour candy is just shocking. That powerful, instant sour sensation makes your mouth pucker, which is no fun. Also, there's a wide variety of sweet candy with different ingredients, ranging from fruity and fresh to chocolate, nougat, and caramel. Sour candy is more limited and pretty much only tastes one way. There's a reason there are so many types of sweet candy. That's because it's better and more people want it. It's a classic.

No—sour candy is exciting

First and foremost, sour candy is so much fun to eat. It's more than just a flavor—it's an experience. When you pop it into your mouth, you know you're in for a super blast of sourness, but it's still a surprise for your taste buds. It's also really fun to compete with your friends to see who can handle the tartest taste. Sure, sour candy is a flavor you have to learn to love, but it's like no other variety of treat out there, while sweet candy is always just predictably...sweet. Besides, sour candy usually has at least a little bit of sweet at the end, once you get past the sour, so you don't have to choose one flavor or the other.

YES

Three reasons sweet candy is better than sour candy

- 1 The classic definition of "candy" is a treat that's sweet, not sour.
- 2 Candy is meant to be enjoyed and savored, which you can do with sweet candy but not sour.
- 3 Sweet candy has so many varieties that there's something for everyone. Sour candy doesn't offer that much choice.

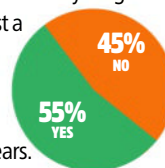
NO

Three reasons sweet candy is not better than sour candy

- 1 Nothing can beat the thrill and surprise of sour candy. It's so unexpected and fun.
- 2 There's nothing else out there like sour candy. It's totally unique, while sweet candy is just plain old sweet.
- 3 Sour candy can fulfill your sweet and sour cravings because it usually has both flavors at the same time.

LAST WEEK'S POLL

Last week, we asked you if kids should be allowed to vote. More than half of you want young people to cast a ballot, while the rest are content to wait a few years.



What do you think?

Now that you've read a bit more about this issue, visit kids.theweekjunior.com/polls so you can vote in our debate. Vote **YES** if you think sweet candy is better than sour candy or **NO** if you don't. We'll publish the results next week.

The goal of the big debate is to present two sides of an issue fairly in order to stimulate discussion and allow our readers to make up their minds. The views on this page do not reflect those of *The Week Junior*, and the page is not funded by third parties.



A culinary trailblazer

White House chef Cristeta Comerford's retirement marks the end of an era.

Cristeta Comerford—the first woman, first person of color, and first person of Asian descent to serve as the White House executive chef—recently retired after nearly 30 years in the nation's most famous kitchen. She cooked for the past five US Presidents, from Bill Clinton to Joe Biden, preparing everything from family snacks to elaborate state dinners.

Born in Manila, in the Philippines, Comerford, age 61, is one of 11 children. She studied food science at the University of the Philippines and left to immigrate to Chicago, Illinois, at age 23. Working at Chicago restaurants, she discovered her love of cooking.

Comerford joined the White House in 1995 as a part-time assistant chef and became executive chef in 2005, during the George W. Bush administration. She told

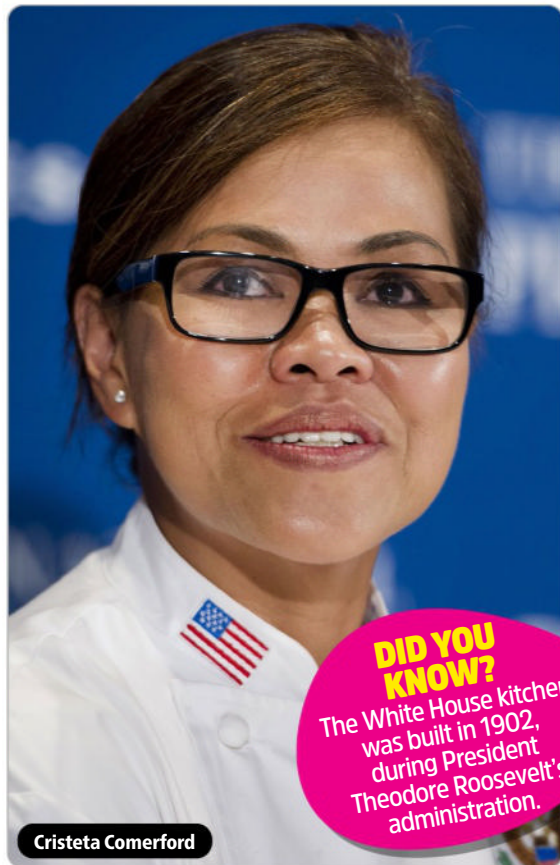
NPR she didn't realize her new job was making history. "I was just doing what I wanted to do," she said. "I love to cook. It just so happens that I'm a minority woman."

During her time at the White House, she organized 54 state dinners for world leaders. Her legacy also includes renovating the White House kitchen to be more modern. And she collaborated with First Lady Michelle Obama on "Let's Move," a public health campaign to promote healthy lifestyles among children.

Comerford took her role of feeding the Presidents so seriously that she stayed updated on current events so she could anticipate their moods. After a stressful day in the Oval Office, Comerford said, all they would want "is just to come home to a nice, home-cooked meal."



The chef with President Joe Biden



Cristeta Comerford

DID YOU KNOW?
The White House kitchen was built in 1902, during President Theodore Roosevelt's administration.

Young fashion star

At age 8, Max Alexander has made headlines as the Guinness World Record holder for the youngest runway fashion designer. Alexander, from Southern California, began sewing at age 4, after asking his parents for a mannequin. Since then, he has created more than 100 gowns. In September, he debuted six handmade gowns at his own runway show during New York Fashion Week. Alexander has more than 3 million social media followers, including designer Isaac Mizrahi, who said Alexander was "full of inspiration."



Max Alexander



Billie Jean King

Sports icon honored

Tennis legend Billie Jean King has become the first individual female athlete to receive the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest and oldest honor Congress awards to citizens. King, age 80, is a 39-time Grand Slam champion and a pioneer of gender equity in sports. In 1973, she helped form the Women's Tennis Association, and her fight for equal pay led to the US Open becoming the first Grand Slam to give women and men the same amount of prize money. Congress stated that this medal is in recognition of King's "remarkable life devoted to championing equal rights for all."

OVERHEARD



"We're all going to experience sadness, heartbreak, betrayal. We're also going to experience success and joy and accomplishment."

Barry Jenkins, age 44, the director of the upcoming big-screen *Lion King* prequel, *Mufasa*, on how films reflect life



Animals and the environment



The scientists hear life underground.

DIG THIS!
One square yard of soil can hold about 500 earthworms and 200,000 insects and other crawlers.

What's in Earth's soil?

About 60% of all life on land lives in soil. This includes mammals, such as moles and rabbits, and invertebrates like centipedes and worms. There are also organisms too small to see, like bacteria and microscopic creatures called tardigrades (below). All these living things help oxygen, water, and nutrients flow through soil.



Listening to the sounds of soil

Scientists have found a new way to study the health of soil—by listening to it. They think their method could help people monitor and improve soil around the world.

All living things—mammals, insects, and even plants—make sounds, and “eco-acoustics” is the study of those noises. The method has been used to observe bats, birds, and sea creatures. Scientists from Flinders University in Australia wanted to see if they could use eco-acoustics to check how healthy soil was. Researcher Jake Robinson told *The Guardian* newspaper it was like a doctor using a stethoscope to listen to a patient’s heartbeat.

Soil can be filled with many living things (see box above), and the greater the diversity of the species, the healthier the soil. For example, invertebrates (animals without backbones) like ants, beetles, worms, and spiders contribute nutrients and water. However, climate change and certain types of farming have reduced the biodiversity (variety of living things) in Earth’s soils.

“Restoring and monitoring soil biodiversity has never been more important,” Robinson said, “For the study, the scientists put special microphones into the soil and then moved away and stood silently so their own noises wouldn’t

affect the results. They collected many hours of recordings from the Mount Bold area of Australia. They also took samples to check soil health.

The recordings showed the different sounds creatures make underground, including crackles, clicks, and pops. Soil full of worms has a bubbly sound, and ants make clicking noises. “A millipede has lots of tiny legs and they make little tapping sounds,” Robinson said. “A snail has a more slimy, glide sound.”

Overall, the study found that a wider variety of sounds suggested healthier soil. It also showed that listening is a good way to measure soil health. It costs less and causes less damage than other methods, such as digging up soil and testing it. In the future, Robinson said, “everyone can just buy their own little recorder and microphone.”



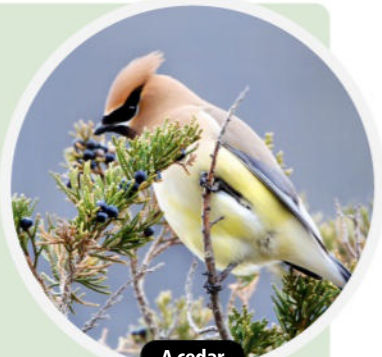
Snails make a gliding sound.



PLACE OF THE WEEK

Sleepy Hollow, New York

This village was made famous by Washington Irving’s short story “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow.” The town brings out its spooky best for Halloween season, with haunted hayrides, tours, and events. Nearby Tarrytown hosts a parade, and locals put on a special performance in Rockefeller State Park Preserve. Year round, the park offers 45 miles of walking paths among forested hills, the scenic Swan Lake, and the Pocantico River. It can be a great place to spot monarch butterflies, flying squirrels, and 202 species of birds, including waxwings, bluebirds, and wood ducks.



A cedar waxwing



SPOOKY SCIENCE

A chiropterologist is an expert who specializes in the study of bats. The word means “studier of creatures with winged hands.”

Hanging upside down is easy for a bat.

Celebrating a creature of the night

It's time to go batty for the world's only flying mammals. October 24 through 31 is Bat Week, an international celebration of bats and their important role in nature.

There are more than 1,400 species of bats, ranging from the size of a bumblebee to that of a small dog. They live on every continent except Antarctica, and about 154 species are found in North America.

Although bats have a reputation for being scary—partly because they are nocturnal (active at night)—they actually play an essential role in the environment's

health. These winged whizzes control pests, pollinate plants, and scatter seeds. But bat populations are declining due to disease, habitat loss, and other threats.

Each year, a team of conservationists and government officials from across North America organizes Bat Week to raise awareness of the need to protect these animals. A variety of events, including festivals, cave tours, and “Bat Stravaganzas,” are held around the world. To learn more, get involved, and download bat-related activities, visit batweek.org.

Animal of the week

Common marmoset



A study has revealed that common marmosets call one another using different sounds for each individual monkey. Experts think they are the first non-human primates (a group that includes monkeys and apes) known to use “names.”

- **LIFE SPAN:** 5 to 16 years in the wild
- **HABITAT:** Forests in Brazil
- **SIZE:** 5 to 7 inches long (not including the tail)
- **DIET:** Tree sap, fruit, insects, lizards, and birds
- **FUN FACT:** The pale skin on a marmoset's face “tans” after being exposed to the Sun.



Good week / Bad week



Gray wolves

After disappearing from California in 1924, gray wolves have made a comeback in the state's forests. In 2011, a wolf crossed the border from Oregon. Now California has seven wolf packs, with 30 pups born this year.



Porbeagle sharks

These large sharks usually roam the oceans with no known predators to fear. But scientists recently discovered that a porbeagle shark was eaten by an even bigger shark—possibly a white shark or a shortfin mako.



“What happens inside a butterfly's cocoon?”

Cole, 13, Iowa

David Grimaldi

Invertebrates curator, American Museum of Natural History

Unlike moths, which produce silky cocoons, butterflies have a naked pupa (transformation vessel) called a chrysalis. Inside, some of the caterpillar's cells grow into body parts like legs and wings. Other parts of its body are broken down to build muscles and organs for the adult butterfly.



A chrysalis

Do you have a question for an animal expert? Send it to hello@theweekjunior.com. Find out more about the American Museum of Natural History at amnh.org.



A beloved series of

Author R.L. Stine likes to spook kids with stories that aren't too scary.

For more than 30 years, the Goosebumps books have been giving kids spine-tingling thrills and laughs. How did these silly-scary novels by R.L.

Stine become one of the best-selling series of all time?

Who is R.L. Stine?

Robert Lawrence Stine, known as R.L. Stine, was born in Columbus, Ohio, on October 8, 1943. He started

writing at a young age but initially wanted to be a cartoonist and illustrate comic books. While attending the Ohio State University, Stine was the editor of the college's humor magazine. After graduation, he worked for the children's book publisher Scholastic in New York City. In 1978, he started writing humor books for kids. In 1986, Stine wrote his first scary book, *Blind Date*. He has said he was inspired by the science fiction and fantasy author Ray Bradbury, the TV series *The Twilight Zone*, and the horror comic book series *Tales from the Crypt*.

Goosebumps begins

In 1992, Stine launched the Goosebumps series with the first book, *Welcome to Dead House*, about two siblings who move into a creepy old house in a strange town. Stine said he launched the series, which mixes middle-grade horror with comedy, as a way to interest kids in reading. His books are meant to be relatable to kids, taking place in familiar locations like school or camp, and feature regular kids with no superpowers. Stine's books contain horror, excitement, and a plot twist but are written to be age-appropriate. "Whenever a scene starts to get too scary, I throw in something funny," Stine told *The Week Junior*. "I don't want it to be too intense. I think humor and horror are very closely related."



The first book in the series



FUN FACT
The covers of the original Goosebumps books featured raised bumps for an extra-spooky feel.

DID YOU KNOW?
R.L. Stine wrote a total of 62 horror fiction books for the original Goosebumps series.

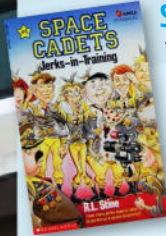
R.L. Stine at his home in New York City



thrilling chills



Other series by R.L. Stine



Space Cadets

This humorous series chronicles four students trying to navigate the fictional Space Academy and make it to outer space. While they may not be the best students at the Space Academy, they find themselves proving they're not the worst.

Fear Street

Aimed at kids a little older than Goosebumps' readers, this series features average teenagers who encounter everything from ghosts to crimes, often on the fictional Fear Street.



Rotten School

This silly series follows a group of fourth graders living together at a boarding school, the Rotten School, and their adventures trying to make money. It also follows the students' rivalry with some of their classmates.

GLOBAL APPEAL

Goosebumps books have been translated around the world into 35 languages.



The TV series *Goosebumps*

A creepy universe expands

In 1995, a Goosebumps television series was launched. It was a top-rated kids' show in the mid-1990s. Goosebumps video games were released in 1996 and 1997 for personal computers. The following decade, Goosebumps video games were created for Nintendo DS, Wii, and Sony PlayStation. In 2015, the first of two live-action Goosebumps movies featuring Jack Black as R.L. Stine came out in theaters. Several spin-off Goosebumps book series have since been released, including Give Yourself Goosebumps (1995), Goosebumps HorrorLand (2008), Goosebumps Most Wanted (2012), Goosebumps SlappyWorld (2017), and Goosebumps House of Shivers (2023).



The Haunted Mask

Goosebumps today

Since 1992, more than 400 million copies of Goosebumps books have been sold, making it the second-best-selling series of all time, behind Harry Potter. In 2024, a new Goosebumps television series was renewed for a second season on Disney+ and Hulu. The new season, with a new cast, is expected at the end of 2024 or early 2025, starring David Schwimmer and Ana Ortiz. In September 2024, a Goosebumps graphic novel, *The Haunted Mask*, was released. It is based on R.L. Stine's favorite Goosebumps book.



GIANT CHUNK

The Welcome Stranger Nugget, which was found in Australia in 1869, weighs more than 156 pounds and is the largest gold nugget ever found.

Gold is melted down to make jewelry and other fine goods.



Scientists solve a gold nugget mystery

Scientists have known for many years that the largest gold nuggets form naturally inside a mineral called quartz, but they have never been sure exactly why. Now they have determined that earthquakes and electricity are the keys to the size of the nuggets.

Gold atoms (tiny particles) exist deep within Earth's crust. They are carried up toward the surface by hot liquids that bubble up and fill the cracks in the quartz, which are called veins. When the fluid cools, it leaves the gold behind.

In theory, scientists said, the gold should be spread evenly throughout the quartz veins. Instead, it clusters together in certain areas and forms large, valuable nuggets that can weigh more than 100 pounds each.

A team of researchers led by Chris Voisey, from Monash University in Australia, wanted to figure out why. "Gold forms in quartz all the time," Voisey said. "The thing that's weird is really, really large gold nugget formation. We didn't know how that worked."

The team determined that earthquakes create cracks in the quartz and also trigger the movement

of the hot liquids that deposit the gold there. And, they found, the quartz itself is piezoelectric, which means it produces an electric charge in response to geologic stress, like when it is squeezed or shaken by the motion of an earthquake.

Voisey's team put quartz into a liquid that contained gold. They then simulated (copied) the movement of an earthquake to generate an electric charge. When they were done, they found that the gold had collected along the surface of the quartz.

This happened because gold conducts electricity. When it gets an electrical charge from the quartz, it works like a magnet, attracting additional gold.

With every earthquake, even more gold is added to the cluster. When the team used a piece of quartz that already had a gold nugget inside it, the nugget got even bigger. "If you shake quartz, it makes electricity. If you make electricity, gold comes out," Voisey said.

Large gold nuggets are very valuable, making up 75% of all the gold that has ever been mined. Voisey called the findings "very, very exciting." It means that scientists might be able to make large gold nuggets in a laboratory.



Gold in white quartz

Where is gold found?



Gold is a soft, shiny metal that is found all over the world in rocks and waterways. Today, the top gold-producing countries include China, Australia, and Russia. Gold can range in size from pieces so small they can barely be seen to huge nuggets. Large quantities of gold are often found in big rock formations. These locations are turned into mines, where many people work to dig the gold out of the rock.

Gold is also found in streams and rivers. When water runs through bigger rock formations that contain gold, the water picks up and carries very small pieces of the precious metal along with it. These pieces can be in the form of flakes or tiny nuggets that settle in stream and river beds. People comb through the water to find it.



Nasal spray for severe allergies could save lives

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA, the US agency that monitors the safety of food and medicine) has approved a nasal spray to treat severe allergic reactions. It's the first needle-free treatment of its kind.

More than 33 million Americans are allergic to certain foods, medicines, or insect bites. Serious allergic reactions can occur within seconds, causing itching, swelling, dizziness, and difficulty breathing.

In rare cases, exposure to an allergen can cause a life-threatening reaction called anaphylaxis.

The only treatment for anaphylaxis has been an injection of a medicine called epinephrine by an EpiPen or other device with a needle. The dose often has

to be administered by the patient or by someone nearby, like a parent.

That can be scary for people who are afraid of needles, which includes most children and up to 30% of young adults, according to one study. Many people choose to visit a hospital emergency

room, causing them to lose precious time.

The nasal spray, called Neffy, contains epinephrine and requires a single spray into the nose. The scientists

who created it said it is less frightening for people in a moment of crisis, making them more likely to use it. "We have needed this for so long," said Michael Blaiss, a pediatrician specializing in allergies in Georgia. "I truly believe it will save lives."

EARLY ORIGINS

In 1862, President Abraham Lincoln created the Bureau of Chemistry, which later became the Food and Drug Administration.



Neffy is easy to use and convenient to carry around.



An illustration of a see-through mouse

Food dye makes mice transparent

A team of scientists at Stanford University in California used a common food dye to make a mouse's skin and muscles transparent (see-through). The non-invasive method lets them see inside the rodents' bodies.

The team removed the fur from the mice and coated their skin with a mixture of water and tartrazine, a dye that gives food a yellow color. Tartrazine is used in products like snack chips and candy.

After a few minutes, the dye changed the amount of light absorbed by the mice's skin, making it see-through. Researchers could see the animals' digestive tract, blood vessels, and muscular system.

When the team washed away the solution, the mice returned to normal. Though the technique hasn't been tested on people yet, scientists hope it can one day help doctors look for internal injuries or locate veins in human patients.



A type of paint that peels off



A new kind of paint goes on easily, dries quickly—and and peels right off when you're ready for a new look. Unpaint, which is made in Colombia and comes in more than 5,000 colors, is great for people who rent homes and aren't allowed to permanently change their walls.

Unpaint is applied like a regular paint and can be used on walls, furniture, and other surfaces. To remove it, you pinch a corner of the paint and gently peel it off. It's made with natural and renewable ingredients and biodegrades (breaks down) on its own.

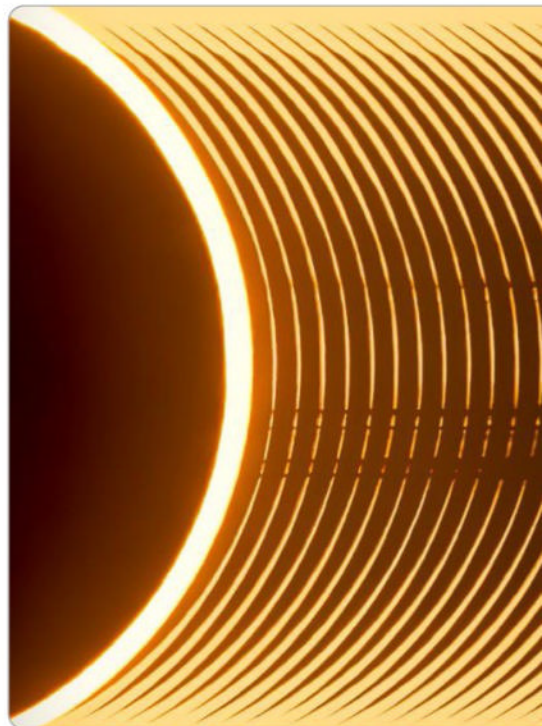


Photos of the week



Glowing globule

This image of the Dolphin Head Nebula was taken by Xin Feng and Miao Gong in China.



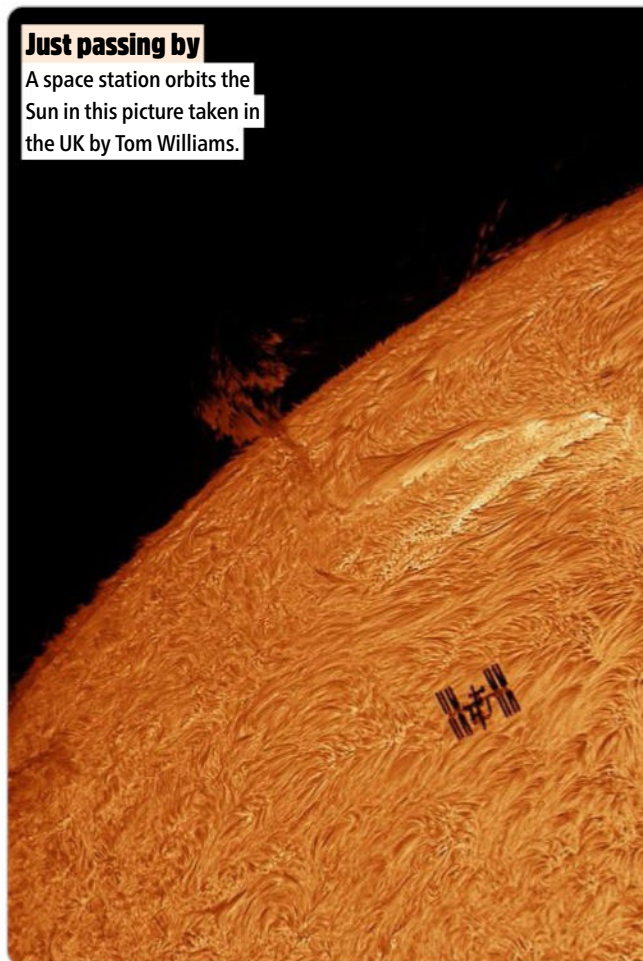
Just passing by

A space station orbits the Sun in this picture taken in the UK by Tom Williams.

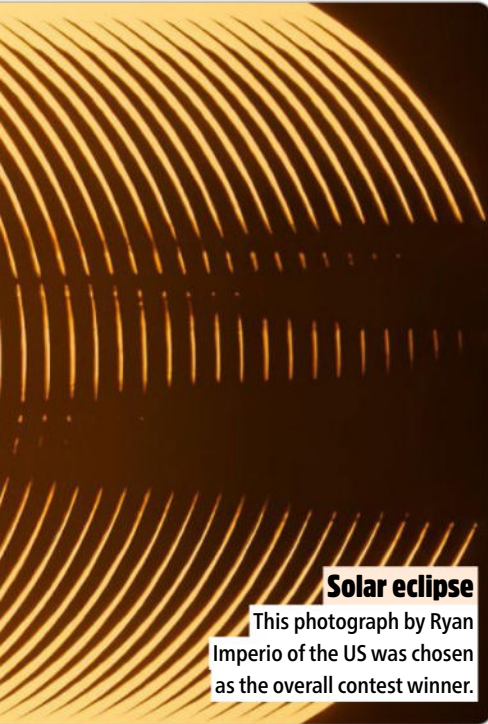


Seeing triple

These images of the phases of Venus were shot by Tom Williams in the UK.



XIN FENG AND MIAO GONG; TOM WILLIAMS (2); RYAN IMPERO; LARRY RAE; MARCEL DRECHSLER/BRAY FALLS; YANN SAINTY; NICOLAS MARTINO/RICHARD CALLI



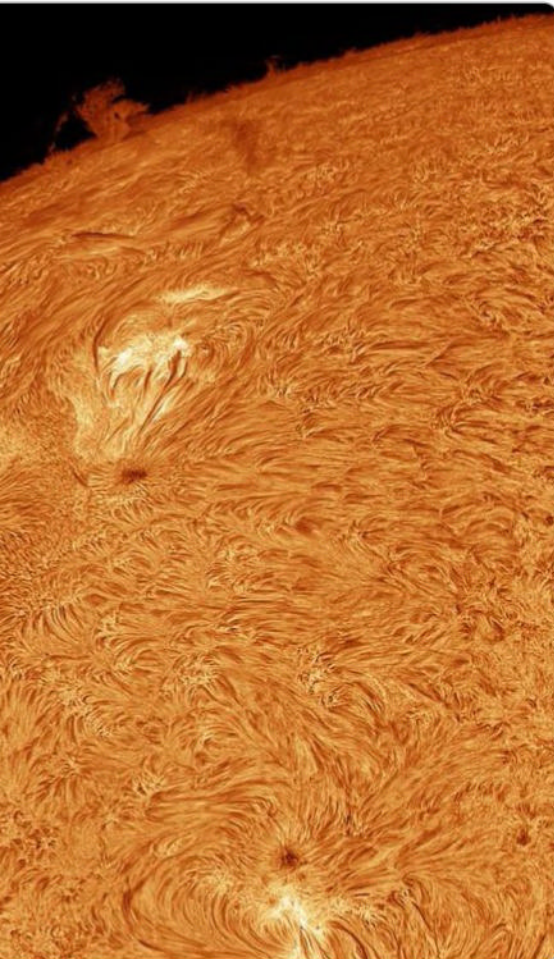
Solar eclipse

This photograph by Ryan Imperio of the US was chosen as the overall contest winner.



Bright night

Larryn Rae took this shot of rare red and pink aurora in New Zealand.



Out of this world

A team of astronomers captured this view of a supernova's remains.



Sports



FUN FACT
Ivan Ivan of the Colorado Avalanche is the first NHL player with the same first and last name.

Utah Hockey Club players

Pioneering coach



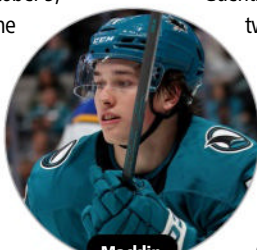
In July, the Seattle Kraken hired Jessica Campbell (above) as a full-time assistant coach. She is the first woman in the NHL to hold that position. On October 8, she made her debut on the bench. Campbell played hockey at Cornell University and as a pro in Canada and Sweden.

New season and team for NHL

The 2024–2025 NHL (National Hockey League) regular season is underway. The first two games were played in Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic, on October 4 and October 5, and US action began on October 8. The Florida Panthers are the defending Stanley Cup champions and will likely be contenders for another title. Other top teams are expected to include the Edmonton Oilers, who were defeated by the Panthers in last season's Stanley Cup Final, the Dallas Stars, the New York Rangers, and the Colorado Avalanche.

This season, the NHL has a new team: the Utah Hockey Club. They replace the Arizona Coyotes, who were bought and moved to Utah in the

off-season. In their debut on October 8 in a sold-out home game against the Chicago Blackhawks, Utah won, 5–2, with forward Dylan Guenther scoring twice. Utah won their next two games as well but fell to the New Jersey Devils, 3–0, on October 14.



Macklin Celebrini

Among the other exciting opening games was one between the Montreal Canadiens and the Toronto Maple Leafs on October 9. The Canadiens won, 1–0, and their goaltender Sam Montembeault stole the show with 48 saves. Also that day, the Calgary Flames pulled off a thrilling 6–5 overtime win against the Vancouver Canucks. The Canucks led 4–1 at the end of the first period, but the Flames scored the next four goals and took

the lead with less than 10 minutes to play. Vancouver tied the game in the final minutes to force overtime. Flames center Connor Zary scored the game-winning goal early in the extra period.

On October 10, the number one pick in the 2024 NHL Draft, San Jose Sharks center Macklin Celebrini, made a strong debut in a game against the St. Louis Blues. The 18-year-old racked up a goal and an assist in his team's 5–4 overtime loss.

One veteran player to watch this season is Washington Capitals star Alexander Ovechkin, who entered the season with 853 career goals. He needs 42 more to top Wayne Gretzky's record for the most career goals in NHL history. Ovechkin could do it in the coming months. Although he scored 31 goals last season, he scored 42 in the 2022–2023 season and 50 in the one before that.

THIS WEEK'S WINNERS...

FOOTBALL

On October 13, the Chicago Bears beat the Jacksonville Jaguars, 35–16, in an NFL game played in London, England. The Bears' rookie quarterback Caleb Williams, the number one pick in this year's draft, threw for 226 yards and four touchdowns. The Bears and the other three teams in their division—the Detroit Lions, Green Bay Packers, and Minnesota Vikings—all have at least four wins this season.

The Portland Thorns



SOCCER

In the National Women's Soccer League, the Portland Thorns broke the Orlando Pride's 23-game winning streak this season with a 2–0 win on October 11. It was the Thorns' first victory in seven matches. Morgan Weaver and Christine Sinclair scored.

COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL

On October 12, 15th-ranked Southern Methodist University upset first-ranked University of Pittsburgh, 3–2, in a five-set match.



RACE HISTORY

Chicago's first modern-day marathon was held in 1977 and had a field of 4,200 runners.



Chicago Marathon winners (from left): Ruth Chepngetich, Marcel Hug, Catherine Debrunner, and John Korir

Historic day at Chicago Marathon

The 46th running of the Chicago Marathon took place on October 13. It is one of the six major marathons in the world. According to the marathon's organizers, 52,150 people finished the 26.2-mile race, the most in the event's history.

This year's marathon was also historic for another reason. Elite runner Ruth Chepngetich of Kenya won the women's race in 2:09:56, a new world record. Before her, no woman had ever finished a marathon in less than 2:10. The previous world record was set by Ethiopia's Tigst Assefa at the 2023 Berlin Marathon, and Chepngetich beat that time by nearly two minutes. This was Chepngetich's third Chicago Marathon victory. Last year, she placed second.

The winner of the men's race was fellow Kenyan John Korir. He finished in 2:02:44, which

was the second-fastest men's marathon time in history. The current world record was set in Chicago last year by the 2023 men's champion, Kelvin Kiptum, another Kenyan. He was killed in a car accident in February and was honored at this year's starting line with a moment of silence. After Chepngetich won her race, she said, "This world record I'm dedicating to Kelvin Kiptum because maybe he could have defended his title again."

Two racers from Switzerland won the wheelchair division races. Marcel Hug took the men's title and Catherine Debrunner was the women's champion. Hug is the most decorated wheelchair marathoner in history, and he has now won in Chicago five times. Debrunner, who was the defending champion, led her race from start to finish and set a new course record in the process.



COACH OF THE WEEK

Coach's Name: **Jonny Lincoln**

Team: **Edina Soccer Club**

"Coach Jonny is kind, considerate, and hardworking. He is honest with us when we make mistakes and helps us do better the next time. He teaches us skills we can use in life and soccer. He helps us have good connections with our teammates and play well with them. He is from England and has taught us all about tea and biscuits too! Coach Jonny is not only an excellent coach, but he is also an outstanding person!" Avianna, 12, Minnesota



To nominate a Coach of the Week, send your coach's name, photo, sport, and team to hello@theweekjunior.com. Include your name, age, state, and a few reasons why your coach is great.

SPOTLIGHT ON...



Ashley Le

AGE: 22 SPORT: VOLLEYBALL
TEAM: UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

Early hit When I was growing up, I played a lot of sports. My mom played volleyball on a club team in college, and she talked about how much she enjoyed that, so I gave it a try. The net was two feet off the ground when I started, but I was topspin serving for fun. At age 10, I tried a competitive league, and that's when I started taking off and enjoying the sport. When I was a teen, my club team won a national championship.

Fast game My favorite thing about volleyball is that there's something happening in every point. It keeps the game exciting. In my opinion, it's the most entertaining sport to watch.

Role model I really look up to volleyball player Courtney Thompson, who played for Team USA. She's 5-foot-8, which is tiny in volleyball, but she still made her presence known and found ways to be the greatest teammate.

Big shift In college, every player is good. At one point, I wasn't getting the playing time I was used to and that was a struggle. But I kept working hard. You can't be complacent and give up.

Looking ahead I'm graduating in December and considering playing beach volleyball at the college level. It's considered a different sport, so I'm eligible to do that. I'm also going to pursue a career in marketing. I'm interested in staying in sports, so if I'm not playing volleyball, I'd like to work around it.

Her advice Do everything in your power to work hard and get better at your sport. There is a place in college for you to play a sport, even if it's not at the Division I level.





Arts and entertainment

FUN FACT

Arkansas used to be called "The Land of Opportunity," but now it is known as "The Natural State."



Time Loop by Klip Collective: A Forest Light Experience

Outdoor art lights up a forest

The Crystal Bridges Museum in Arkansas has a new immersive experience with a theme of time and space.

A new immersive art exhibit is on display in the woods next to the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art in Bentonville, Arkansas. *Time Loop by Klip Collective: A Forest Light Experience* features six installations made with lights, projections, and sound. It will be open until January 5.

Klip Collective was founded by artist Ricardo Rivera, who leads a team that includes animators, programmers, and musicians. To create *Time Loop*, he visited the site and envisioned what could be created there. "Ricardo



Ricardo Rivera

really understood how to make an experience that was fun and colorful and could make visitors say 'Wow!'," Alejo Benedetti, the museum's curator (person who chooses art) of contemporary art, told *The Week Junior*.

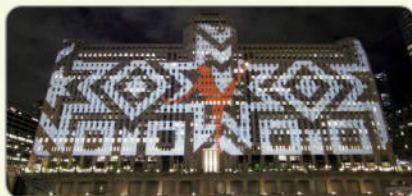
The installations in *Time Loop*, which are best viewed at night, have themes related to time and space. One of them, *Broken Time Machine*, is a piece Rivera had wanted to make for years. As visitors walk through it, their photo is taken by multiple cameras. The images are then projected onto different surfaces of the piece. "You show

up next to you from 10 seconds ago, next to you from 30 seconds ago," Benedetti said.

Each installation also has an element of surprise, he said. For example, in an illuminated landscape, a portal "appears out of nowhere." Another work has a large sculpture that seems to change from what appears to be a stone into a pear then a strawberry. Benedetti called it "unexpected and marvelous and tremendously entertaining."

Outdoor installations at Crystal Bridges help people see the woods in a new way, Benedetti said. He thinks guests will leave *Time Loop* feeling "inspired and a little mesmerized by just how incredible this forest really is."

More outdoor art

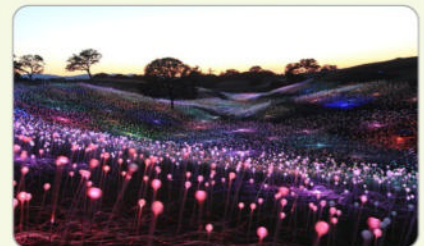


Art on the Mart

The Mart, a large building in Chicago, Illinois, is used as a canvas for digital art at night. Currently, it displays projections of animated dancers (above) by Brendan Fernandes. It is a tribute to house music (a form of electronic dance music).

Luna Fête

This annual nighttime festival in New Orleans, Louisiana, features immersive contemporary art installations, including projections on the city's historic Gallier Hall. It runs from November 14 to November 17 and will have a new area for kids.



Sensorio

There are five attractions in this large immersive art installation in Paso Robles, California. One of them, *Field of Light* by Bruce Munro (above), is made of more than 100,000 bulbs that look like glowing flowers.



WOW!

More than 13.3 million viewers watched the first season premiere of *Percy Jackson and the Olympians*.

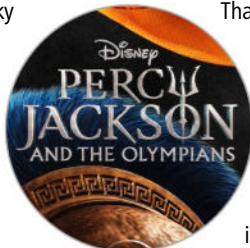


Tamara Smart

A Percy Jackson hero is cast

Production on season two of *Percy Jackson and the Olympians*, the Disney+ series based on the best-selling books by Rick Riordan, is underway. Recently, Disney+ announced that Tamara Smart has been cast in a recurring guest star role as Thalia Grace, the demigod (half god, half human) daughter of the sky god Zeus. The new season will premiere in 2025.

The Percy Jackson books are based in modern times but rooted in Greek mythology. The main character is 12-year-old Percy (portrayed in the show by Walker Scobell), who discovers he is a demigod with supernatural powers. Each season of the show is based on one book from Riordan's series. Season one was released last year and was based on the first Percy Jackson book, *The Lightning Thief*, which was published in 2005.



Season two will feature the story from *The Sea of Monsters* (2006). In it, the magical borders of Camp Half-Blood begin weakening, putting demigods at risk. To restore the barrier, Percy and his friends go on a quest for the Golden Fleece. During the journey, Percy encounters

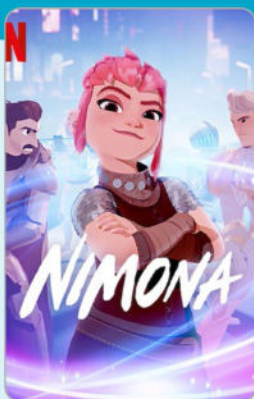
Thalia Grace, who has been transformed into a pine tree to protect the camp.

Once her body form is restored, she joins the fight against new threats.

Riordan called Thalia Grace one of the most important characters in the Percy Jackson universe. "Thalia is a powerful warrior, a fiercely loyal friend, and a demigod rebel with a 'punk' sensibility," he said. He added that Smart "puts the 'grace' in Thalia Grace!" The actress, who has appeared in the films *A Babysitter's Guide to Monster Hunting* and *Artemis Fowl*, said she is "so grateful and excited to be joining the cast."



READER RECOMMENDS



Nimona (PG) Netflix

"This is about a knight, Ballister, and a shape-shifting teen, Nimona. When Ballister is framed for a crime, he wants to prove he is a good guy and Nimona becomes his sidekick to help him. They work together and learn things about each other along the way. Nimona sees things that could be dangerous as perfectly normal, which makes for some golden comedy scenes. The movie taught me that if you feel like an outcast or struggle with working with other people, those challenges can be solved when you least expect it. I also learned to keep holding your head up high." Zachary, 12, Oregon

Do you have a film or TV show to recommend to other kids? Send your review to hello@theweekjunior.com.



THIS WEEK'S WATCH LIST



SpongeBob SquarePants: Kreeperway Kamp (Paramount+)

In a Halloween special, SpongeBob and friends reunite at Kamp Koral and find themselves in a spooky mystery. As campers begin to disappear, the gang must uncover the truth behind a shadowy figure, save their pals, and escape.



Wildlife Rescue: Australia (Nat Geo)

This new documentary follows Dr. Bree Talbot and her team of veterinarians and nurses from Byron Bay Wildlife Hospital in western Australia. It shows their efforts to save and treat koalas, kangaroos, and even an orphaned echidna (above) brought to their mobile vet truck.



Kids Baking Championship: Scary Good (Food Network)

Four fan-favorite bakers from past seasons of *Kids Baking Championship* celebrate Halloween and compete in this new special. They have to create treats that include pull-apart cupcakes made with extremely spicy ghost peppers.



Save New York from mutants

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutants Unleashed is a new action platformer game. It was just released for the Nintendo Switch, PlayStation systems, Xbox platforms, and PC.

The game is based on the popular 2023 animated film *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem*. As Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (TMNT) fans know, the turtles are brothers Leonardo, Donatello, Raphael, and Michelangelo. When they were babies, a chemical ooze turned them into human-like creatures. They were raised in New York City sewers by mutant rat Splinter, who trains them in ninjutsu, a martial art.

Mutants Unleashed begins when a new set of wild mutants, including a giant killer bee, arrive in the city and cause panic and destruction. It is up to the turtle brothers to

stop them and restore order. The action takes place in the streets, sewers, and skies of the five boroughs of New York City. The game is filled with side quests that help the turtles build up experience points and get players used to the controls. Each turtle not only has his own unique weapon but also boasts his own fighting style. As the game goes on and you've grinded your way through levels and boss battles, each character will develop new moves.

Brawling is a big part of Mutants Unleashed, but building bonds and friendships is also important. You can do that by hanging out at the pizza parlor and other local spots with characters such as April O'Neil, the turtles' human ally. While playing the game, you can bond with real-life people, too. It can be played solo as well as in two-player co-op mode.



PODCAST OF THE WEEK

SPOOKY TROOP: THE LAST HALLOWEEN

Major podcast platforms

This Halloween-themed series is full of mystery, action, and comedy. It is set in a world of warring monsters and follows a group of tweens from different monster backgrounds who uncover an evil Demon King's plot to wipe out all humans.



WEBSITE OF THE WEEK



IN RHYTHM WITH NATURE

tinyurl.com/TWJUS-NatureRhythm

In the 18th century, scientist Carl Linnaeus designed a clock that shows when flowers open and close during the day. It inspired this well-being experience from Google Arts & Culture, which mixes relaxing breathing exercises with visuals of opening and closing flowers and soothing sounds.



VIDEO OF THE WEEK

KIDS TRY HALLOWEEN FOODS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

tinyurl.com/TWJUS-KidReactions

In many countries, candy isn't the only Halloween treat. Watch as kids sample traditional items such as *huesos de santo*, a dessert from Spain that looks like bones; sugar skulls from Mexico; and barmbrack, an Irish bread with trinkets inside.



Book club

BOO! 2024



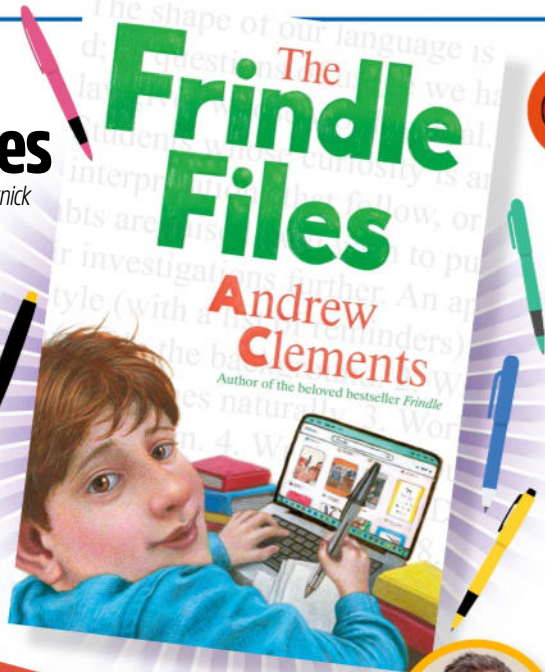
BOOK OF THE WEEK

The Frindle Files

By Andrew Clements, illustrated by Brian Selznick

(Random House Books for Young Readers)

The classic *Frindle* has been popular with kids ever since Andrew Clements wrote it in 1996. Now its sequel, *The Frindle Files*, which Clements wrote before he died in 2019, has been published. It takes place about 25 years after the original story and features Josh, a sixth grader who likes doing his homework on his computer. But one teacher, Mr. N., requires that students neatly write their assignments. When Josh needs a pen for his writing homework, his mom gives him one with the word "Frindle" on it, explaining that the word was a trend when she was in middle school. Josh searches the term "Frindle" on his computer and discovers that Nick Allen, a sixth grader at the time, made up the word. Josh notices that Nick looks a lot like a younger version of Mr. N. The next day, Josh sneaks the Frindle pen onto Mr. N.'s desk. Based on Mr. N.'s reaction, Josh is convinced that Mr. N. is Nick and doesn't want anyone to know about his past. Josh shares his suspicions with a friend. Will they be able to prove that Mr. N. and Nick Allen are the same person? This humorous mystery may make you think about the power of words even in a digital world.



ASK THE ILLUSTRATOR

Brian Selznick

We spoke to the illustrator of the Book of the Week.

What do you like most about this book?

I love that this book exists and that I was asked to illustrate it! I like how the book is about teachers and students.

Is it hard to illustrate a book you didn't write?

It's hard but it's also fun! I like reading stories by other authors and imagining how to visualize the characters in a way that will add exciting elements to the book.

What inspires you?

I get inspired by visiting museums, watching old movies, and taking walks in nature. I enjoy being curious about things I don't know.

Did you draw growing up?

Yes, I drew all the time when I was a child, and I made sculptures. My dad was an accountant, but he was supportive of me, as was my mom.

Favorite fall pie?

Apple pie. No contest.

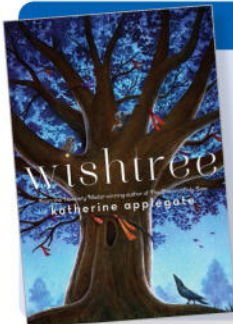


READER RECOMMENDS

Wishtree By Katherine Applegate

"This book is about a tree that talks to other trees and animals. It can also talk to humans, but it usually doesn't. Every year people come to the Wishtree and attach their wishes to it. The magic tree sometimes grants people their wishes. I like this book because it's a fantasy. It is one of my all-time favorite books, and it's by one of my favorite authors!" Winifred, 9, Washington

Do you have a book to recommend? Send your review to hello@theweekjunior.com.



4 books that are full of Halloween spirit

You're in for a treat when you read one of these spooky and silly stories.



The Ghost Rules

By Adam Rosenbaum

(Holiday House)

After a 12-year-old boy moves to a new town, he learns that he can see and talk to ghosts. Many of their conversations are more funny than scary. He tries to save a theater from being turned into a bank and hopes to connect with the ghost of his older brother, who recently died. Ages 8–12



Monster Movie!

By Chuck Wendig

(Little, Brown Books for Young Readers)

Ethan doesn't want to join his classmates who are watching a horror movie at a popular student's house. But his two friends convince him to come. When he arrives, he realizes the movie has unleashed a monster—and he's the only person who can save the town. Can he overcome his own fears? Ages 8–12



Nancy Spector, Monster Detective

By Stephen W. Martin, illustrated by Linh Pham

(Algonquin Young Readers)

In a town filled with monsters, an 8-year-old budding detective gets her first case. She's hired to track down a missing dog, which proves to be difficult because the dog is invisible. This new graphic novel series is both creepy and cute. Ages 8–12



Screech School

By Jennifer Killick

(Delacorte Press)

A group of friends try to protect their school from vampire bats and scarecrows in this latest book in the Creatures & Teachers series. A couple seeking revenge against the school unleashes the beasts, causing chaos at field day and during the school dance. Funny moments keep the book from becoming super scary. Ages 8–12



How to...

Make Halloween treats and crafts

Get ready for some holiday fun with these festive recipes and decorations!

Ghostly bell pepper bites

Ingredients

- 12 black olives
- 6 baby bell peppers, halved lengthwise and seeded
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup hummus
- 12 mozzarella pearls, halved

Instructions

1. Trim the end from half of the black olives and set the slices aside. Use the end of a plastic straw to press into each olive like a cookie cutter to cut 24 circles from the remaining whole and trimmed olives. (Squeeze straw to release any circles that get stuck.)
2. Fill each bell pepper with hummus. Add 2 mozzarella half eyes and black olive pupils to each. Serve immediately. Makes 12 pepper bites.

COLORFUL CUTENESS

Baby bell peppers are about 1.5 inches long and range in color from red to yellow to orange.



Recycled ghouls jars



What you'll need

- Clean recycled jars
- Black paint and paintbrush
- Facial tissues
- Scissors
- Toothpick or a black marker
- Needle and white thread
- Tape (any kind)

Instructions

1. Paint the lids of the jars black and allow them to dry.
2. Rip a tissue in half. Wad half into a tight ball. Place ball underneath the center of a new tissue to make a ghost.
3. Hold your ghost by the head and use a toothpick (or a marker) to dot paint on for eyes. Let dry.
4. Thread a needle and tie a knot at the end. Use the threaded needle to pierce up through the bottom of

the balled-up tissue and through the outer tissue. Cut the thread off the needle, allowing a couple of inches of thread to protrude from the top of the head.

5. Tape the cut end of the thread to the inside of the jar lid so the ghost hangs without touching the bottom. You can add store-bought Halloween creatures, like bats and spiders, to other jars!

How to...



DID YOU KNOW?

The first US city believed to have celebrated Halloween was Anoka, Minnesota, in 1920.

WARNING!
Ask an adult's permission before using a hot glue gun.



Paint-your-own cat and bat pumpkins

What you'll need

- Newspaper or any scrap paper
- Artificial pumpkins, any size (from a craft store or online)
- Black acrylic craft paint
- Paintbrush
- Light-colored paint pen or paint (like yellow or white)
- Black cardstock
- Scissors
- Hot glue or white glue

Instructions

1. Cover your work surface with newspaper or scrap paper to protect it. Paint your pumpkins black and allow them to dry completely.
2. In the meantime, cut ears for the cats and ears and wings for the bats, leaving an extra $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch of paper along the side where you will glue it to the pumpkin. Fold that $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch back to make a tab (or flap) for gluing. Optional: You can cut a slit in the center of the tab to make it easier to adhere to the rounded shape of the pumpkin.
3. Glue the ears and wings to the pumpkins. Hot glue is the easiest method as it sets quickly. If you use white glue, hold the items in place for a few minutes while the glue dries.
4. Draw features, like eyes and noses, on the pumpkins with a paint pen or paint. Don't forget whiskers for the cats and fangs for the bats!
5. Display your painted pumpkins on a shelf or in a window, or use as a decorative centerpiece on your family's dining table.



Spooky spider doughnuts

Ingredients

- 12 plain doughnuts
- 1 (16-ounce) container white frosting
- Purple food coloring
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup chocolate frosting
- 24 brown chocolate pastels

Instructions

1. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper and place a cooling rack on top. Microwave 1 cup of the white frosting on high for 25 seconds in a medium-size, microwave-safe bowl. Add a few drops of food coloring and stir until smooth.
2. Dip the top of each doughnut in the frosting and place on the rack.
3. Microwave the remaining white frosting in a small bowl on high for 15 seconds. Drizzle the frosting over the doughnuts to create webbed tops.
4. Place the chocolate frosting in a piping bag with a writing tip. To make each spider, gently press 2 chocolate pastels on each doughnut and use the piping bag to add legs. Keep cool until ready to serve. Serves 12.



Puzzles



Word ladder

To change the word TRICK into the word TREAT, use each clue to fill in a word that is only one letter different from the word before it. If you get stuck, try solving from the bottom up.

Like the ice on a lake people go skating on

Baby bird

Inspect, like your candy bag

Part of the face where a pirate outfit might have a scar

Small, narrow stream

Alphabet whose first two letters are alpha and beta

Say hello to someone at the door

"It's the ___ Pumpkin, Charlie Brown" (Halloween TV special)

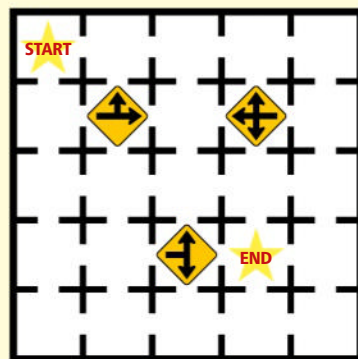
T R I C K

T R E A T



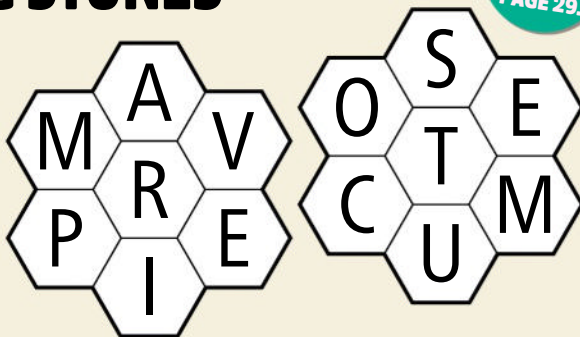
DETOURS

Draw one continuous path from START to END that goes through every single square without crossing itself. For squares with signs, you may only enter at the arrow's base, and you may only make a turn in the direction of an arrow shown. (NEED A HINT? Check the bottom of the page.)



STEPPING STONES

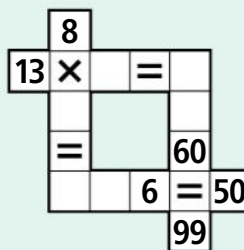
Each figure hides a seven-letter word associated with Halloween. To find each one, start anywhere and move in an unbroken path through letters that share a border (no jumping!), using each letter once.



ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 29.

Crossmath

Fill each empty box with a number or a mathematical symbol (+, -, ×, or ÷) to complete the equations across and down. A symbol can be used more than once.



Spot the difference

These two pictures of candy corn appear to be the same, but take a closer look. There are actually five differences. Can you see them?





Good game,
good boy!

Floki the canine footvolley star

Meet Floki, a border collie teaching people in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, how to play footvolley—a mixture of soccer and beach volleyball. In footvolley, players cannot touch the ball with their hands or arms, which is perfect for Floki because he hits the ball over the net with his snout. Floki's owner, Gustavo Rodrigues, is a footvolley coach. He said he first noticed his pet's potential when Floki started jumping toward birthday balloons as a puppy. Now Floki barks at Rodrigues to pass him the ball and leaps into his arms when they score.



The reader's
retreat

Book a vacation in a bookstore

Known as the "world's only bookshop Airbnb," The Open Book is a rentable bookstore in Scotland with an apartment above it. Guests can spend the night upstairs and run the shop during the day. While they stay, they are free to change displays, price books, and update the blackboard to attract new customers. Since it opened in 2014, the nonprofit shop has welcomed more than 450 guests who have enjoyed the experience of running their own bookstore. One guest said, "There's no better feeling than somebody buying a book that you put on display."



The pan-tastic pupusa

Dishing up a delicious record

"Welcome to the District of Pupusa!" a community official said as the world's largest pupusa stretched 20 feet down Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, DC. A team of 40 chefs prepared the traditional flatbread from El Salvador, dropping dough onto a giant griddle and filling it with pork, cheese, and an edible flower called loroco. Once it was cooked, the pupusa set a new world record and fed a crowd of about 5,000 people. Chef Iris Jimenez said, "It's a moment of pride to be able to highlight such a special dish to all of us."

Real or
fake?

Is this feline
fashion for
science?



Cats wear hats for brain study

Thanks to little woolen beanie hats, scientists have been able to record the brain activity of cats while they're awake for the first time. Experts from the University of Montreal, in Canada, are trying to find new treatments for cats with chronic pain. In previous study attempts, cats chewed or played with the wires attached to their brain monitors. So the experts asked a student to make special caps, which keep the monitors in position on the cats' heads. Is this the truth, or are we spinning a yarn?*

*Real! A student crocheted the caps with guidance from a YouTube video. A professor working on the project said that after some treats and encouragement, "the cats tolerated the hats very well and allowed us to record their brain activity."



Your turn

Editor's note

After this year's Nobel Peace Prize winner was announced on October 11, many media outlets published a photo of a man named Shigemitsu Tanaka, a member of Nihon Hidankyo, the group that won the award (p3). In the photo, he is crying. I imagine that it was overwhelming for him to hear that his group—survivors of America's atomic bomb attacks on Japan at the end of World War II who have spent decades calling for the elimination of nuclear weapons—was being honored in such a significant way. When we were selecting photos for our story about the Nobel Prizes in this week's issue, we chose an image of Terumi Tanaka, another survivor. In this photo, taken at a news conference the day after the announcement, he is smiling. Both images are powerful. I congratulate Nihon Hidankyo and thank Alfred Nobel for deciding, in 1895, to focus this award on such a vital endeavor: peace.

Andrea Barbalich
Editor-in-Chief



Finding fur-ever homes

“Spending time with the kittens, reading *The Week Junior*, and playing computer games are my three favorite things. I wanted to share a cute picture of one of our foster kittens, Dandelion, who was reading an article on one of my favorite games with me! For over a year, we have been fostering kittens for an organization called T.E.A.R.S. of Seminole County. We have taken care of 21 kittens so far. We help nurse the orphaned kittens back to health, bottle-feed them, and clean their litter boxes. We also play with them and pet them a lot so they can learn to trust people. After they get spayed and neutered, T.E.A.R.S. finds good homes for them. You can also help cats find loving homes!”



Ivan, 12, Florida

Have you done something interesting or raised money for a cause you care about? Whatever you're up to, we want to hear about it at hello@theweekjunior.com.

JOKE OF THE WEEK
What's a good thing to eat on Halloween?
An "I scream" sandwich

CHARITY OF THE WEEK



Ween Dream

This organization works to help all children enjoy Halloween. It collects gently used Halloween costumes and distributes them to children in need, such as those who have an illness or are living in foster care. Since the group's founding in 2014, it has distributed more than 19,000 new and used costumes to kids in 38 states. Find out more at weendream.org.



Apply to join Junior Council!

The Week Junior is conducting a national search for 12 students, ages 8 to 14, who want to have their voices heard about the issues and causes that matter to them. This will be our sixth session of Junior Council, and council members will meet directly with *The Week Junior* editors and mentors. There will be about six virtual workshops held from January through May 2025. A project created by council members may appear in a future issue of the magazine. To apply, go to juniorcouncil.theweekjunior.com to download the application. The deadline to enter is October 24.



THE WEEK
Junior

IT'S YOUR TURN

Email your news, views, and photos to hello@theweekjunior.com.



FALL FAVORITE

We enjoyed receiving photos from readers who made the pumpkin smoothie from Issue 232! If you have a photo to share, have an adult email it us at hello@theweekjunior.com, along with anything you'd like to tell us about what's happening in the photo.



"I made the pumpkin smoothie from *The Week Junior*." **Naomi**, 11, Wisconsin

"The pumpkin smoothie was the perfect way to kick-start fall." **Ben**, 11, Pennsylvania



"I made the pumpkin smoothie, and it was amazing!" **Annie**, 10, California



Teacher OF THE WEEK

Teacher's Name: **Señor Sanchez**

School: **Durham Academy Middle School**

"Señor Sanchez is so thoughtful. He is both my advisor and Spanish teacher. I'm a new student at my school, and he makes me feel so welcome. He creates lots of fun ways for us to learn Spanish, like playing Simon Dice (Simon Says). During advisory, he has lots of games and cool fidgets for our hands. Señor Sanchez is a special, kind, and amazing teacher. He rocks!"

Susannah, 10, North Carolina

Nominate your teacher for Teacher of the Week!

Send your reason for the nomination, a photo of your teacher, and your school's name and address to hello@theweekjunior.com.



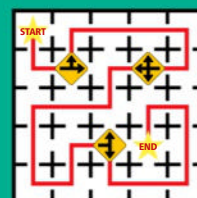
Puzzle answers (from page 26)

Word ladder

trick
thick
chick
check
cheek
creek
Greek
greet
Great
treat

Stepping stones

vampire, costume



8			
13	×	3	= 39
7			+
=			60
56	-	6	= 50
			99



Quiz answers (from page 30)

1 b) 128 "Grazer" 2 c) *The Haunted Mask*
3 True 4 22 5 b) 154 6 False. Earthquakes contribute to their formation. 7 a) 1996
8 Eco-acoustics 9 False. It is set in New York City. 10 Neffy 11 c) San Diego, California
12 True 13 b) Marmosets 14 c) Thalia Grace 15 Footvolley

We want to hear from you! To have your letters, photos, nominations, recommendations, or ideas considered for inclusion in the magazine, please include your full name, age, and state with your submission. By emailing your submission to us, you give *The Week Junior* consent to publish it in the magazine and online. Please get your parent/guardian's permission before sending anything to us.



Quiz

How much of this week's news can you remember?

1 Which bear recently won Katmai National Park's Fat Bear Week contest for the second straight year?

a) 32 "Chunk" b) 128 "Grazer" c) 909 "Junior"

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

2 What is author R.L. Stine's favorite Goosebumps book?

a) *Blind Date*
b) *Monster Blood*
c) *The Haunted Mask*

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

3 True or false? Cristeta Comerford was the first woman to serve as executive chef at the White House.

True ☐ False ☐

4 How many Grand Slam titles did tennis champion Rafael Nadal win?

5 About how many species of bats live in North America?

a) 85 b) 154 c) 223

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

6 True or false? Lightning strikes contribute to the formation of large gold nuggets inside a mineral called quartz.

True ☐ False ☐

7 When was the book *Frindle* released?

a) 1996 b) 2006 c) 2016

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

8 What is the term for the study of sounds made by living things like insects and plants?



9 True or false? The video game *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutants Unleashed* is set in Chicago.

True ☐ False ☐

10 What is the name of the first nasal spray approved by the FDA to treat severe allergic reactions?

11 Which city has been announced as the greenest in the US?

a) Honolulu, Hawaii
b) Washington, DC
c) San Diego, California

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

12 True or false? Han Kang is the first Asian woman to win the Nobel Prize in Literature.

True ☐ False ☐

13 Which non-human primates were found to use different "names" for one another?

a) Bonobos b) Marmosets c) Lemurs

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

14 Which character will Tamara Smart play in the new show *Percy Jackson and the Olympians*?

a) Annabeth Chase
b) Clarisse La Rue
c) Thalia Grace

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

15 A border collie named Floki helps teach people how to play what sport?

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